

Enfield's Local Governance Partner
KITE Community Table Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

*The mission of KITE is to ensure that Enfield's children are healthy, safe, and happy;
live in thriving families; and are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed
in school and flourish in the 21st century.*



There were 18 members present		
Carol LaLiberte- CT State Community College Asnuntuck	Michala Schupp- KITE	Dave Bechtel- Cross Sector Consulting
Jennifer Ryan- KITE	Samantha Loveday- KITE	Kaytlyn Ferrando- KITE
Lanie Lebrun-Enfield Food Shelf	Amy Witbro- LWG	Amy Morales- Social Services
Eileen Gardner- ECDC	Don Ellis- Enfield Fire Dept	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library
Jaclyn Valley- Stowe	Rosalind Swift- Ujima African American Alliance	Megan Kelley- Community Member
Donna Kosser- United Way	Hannah Song- KITE	Melissa Bednarz- Happy Time Preschool

Welcome and Introductions- Carol LaLiberte

Acceptance of **KITE Meeting Minutes- April **KITE**** Meeting Minutes were approved.
Regular agenda items were tabled for this meeting.

Local Needs Assessment Discussion

- Dave Bechtel presented Local Needs Assessment data. Dave noted that **KITE** has already been leading this work since 2012 with the Enfield Early Childhood Community Plan.
- The group reviewed data from the Head Start assessment and additional information provided by the state. Although Enfield appears to be performing well overall, members discussed concerns that the data may not fully reflect disparities within the community. Approximately one in three families are ALICE families, one in three households are single-parent households, and one in ten households speak a language other than English at home.

Education and Community Trends

- Participants discussed declining birth rates and lower kindergarten through twelfth grade enrollment trends statewide and nationally, while noting that Enfield may not be experiencing the same decline. Nearly half of renters are spending more than one-third of their income on housing, and referrals for special education services have increased by seven percent over the last ten years.

Mental Health Concerns

- Members emphasized the importance of focusing on mental health needs within the community. The group discussed nearly 5,000 calls to Connecticut 211 related to mental health and addiction last year, increasing waitlists for mental health services, and the impact of outside stressors on families and children.

Table Discussion

- Participants discussed the need for more updated family violence and abuse data, clarification regarding disability classifications, and additional information about available social service resources. Members also discussed improving coordination between providers, strengthening person-to-person connections, and developing a centralized resource hub for families.
- Additional discussion topics included access to free and reduced-price meals, housing concerns, tenant hesitation in reporting unsafe conditions, the need for better visibility and trust of family support resources, and the importance of connecting families with one another. The group also discussed expanding partnerships with Child First, Community Health Resources, and special education service providers. It was also suggested that the collaborative invite Amy Dennis to speak on special education issues.

Next Steps

Members expressed interest in reviewing additional community comparison data and exploring more effective methods for identifying root causes of community challenges.

Adjournment 6:45pm